

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A1

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W. German Doctor Tells of U.S. Interrogation

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ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada—When she was first detained by U.S. troops on Grenada, West German doctor Regina Fuchs thought it was just a mistake in the confusion that followed the U.S. invasion of this Caribbean nation Oct. 25.

Stopped at a roadblock manned by U.S. paratroops a few days after the invasion, Fuchs and two companions were bundled into a truck and driven to a U.S. detention center at Point Salines for questioning.

"They said at first that one of my friends was suspected of having been an officer in the People's Revolutionary Army and the other was sus-

pected of having been a driver for [PRA commander] Hudson Austin," she said in an interview Friday at her home overlooking the sea here. "Neither had had anything to do with the PRA or with Austin and after six hours we were all released."

That, however, was only the beginning of her detention at the hands of U.S. authorities. Before it was over she was arrested again by the U.S. Army, placed in solitary confinement in a fortress prison and interrogated by American investigators.

Fuchs is among more than 30 foreigners who worked in Grenada under the government of assassinated prime minister Maurice Bishop and were rounded up by U.S. forces, questioned, then issued deportation orders in the name of the governor general.

She said her house was searched by U.S. military men, and she was never told what she was being detained for or given a chance to speak with a lawyer or get in touch with a representative of the European Community. In the end, she said, after her questioners had pored over her childhood and student records from Germany, she was released with no explanations but with an expulsion order that gave her 48 hours to leave Grenada.

U.S. government spokesmen here have confirmed that Grenadians and foreigners detained here have been questioned by U.S. military intelligence in Richmond Hill prison. But State and Defense department spokesmen here have refused all questions about the reasons for the detention and interrogation of Fuchs and other foreign workers in Grenada. The detentions conducted by U.S. forces, they have insisted, are at the request of the Grenadian government or general, Paul Scoon.

[In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Sondra McCarty and a "Lt. Col. Williams" who asked to be identified only as a Defense Department spokesman declined to comment on the case.]

Fuchs, 35, said she first came to Grenada in January 1982 after having completed a course in tropical medicine in London.

"I wanted to work in the tropics to practice my specialty," she said as she packed her bags in preparation for her departure Monday. "I heard of Grenada and I wrote to the Ministry of Health and after three months I got a letter offering me a job here. So I came."

During the 22 months she spent in Grenada, she said, she ran a public clinic by the waterfront of the capital along with a Swedish and a Cuban doctor. The clinic, which dispensed free medicine, was serving 1,000 patients a month until it was forced to shut down when Fuchs and the other doctors were ordered expelled.

"When the invasion came I decided to stay on and continue working here because I was needed," she said.

Fuchs gave the following account of her second detention:

After the first, brief detention, she returned to her clinic and worked there until a week ago Saturday when two American military policemen, accompanied by three members of the Caribbean Peace-Keeping Force made up of policemen from neighboring islands, came to the house where she was staying and said they wanted her to accompany

When she insisted on stopping by her own house on the way to the interview she discovered that the lock on her apartment had been broken and six U.S. soldiers were inside searching through her belongings.

Fuchs was first taken to the new military police headquarters. She said her requests to speak with a lawyer or the representative of the European Community were ignored.

After six hours in detention there she was told to gather up her belongings because she was leaving. When she asked where they were taking her she was told Richmond Hill, the old prison built into an 18th century fortress overlooking the capital.

"I asked why I was being taken there and got no answer," she said.

At the prison, she said, she was put in a cell three yards square with a small cot and tiny windows high up on the stone walls.

"So I spent all that day lying in my cell wondering what I was there for," she said. "I knew I was innocent. I had not been involved in politics, I was a doctor."

The second day of her captivity, Fuchs said she was taken from her cell and led to an interrogation room where she was questioned by an American in civilian clothes who she said was named Ed and an American woman in a military uniform named Nancy.

"I kept asking why was I there, why I couldn't see a lawyer, why the EEC representative had not been called," she said. "Ed just kept saying he was not in a position to answer questions."

Instead he meticulously questioned Fuchs about her past, her youth in Berlin, her associates when she was a medical student, her politics in Germany.

The fact that she had worked with Cambodian refugees in Thailand in 1980 was questioned, as was the fact that she had a number of East German stamps in her passport that she said were routinely put in every time she left West Berlin to travel overland to visit her parents

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